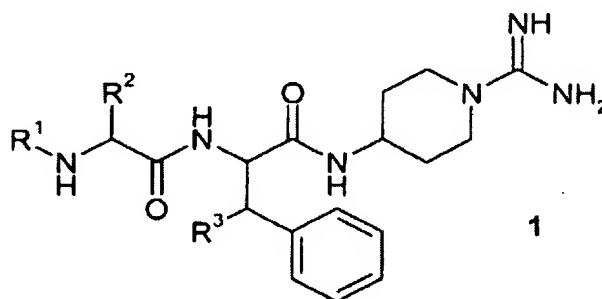


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

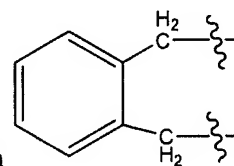
1. (Currently amended) A compound according to general formula 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

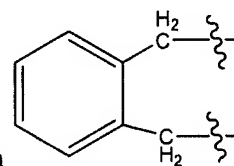


wherein

R^1 is selected from H, lower alkyl, R^4 -CO, R^4 -O₂CCH₂, R^5 -OCO and R^5 -SO₂;

R^2 is selected from lower alkyl, cycloalkyl optionally substituted with an alkyl or alkyloxy group, (C₅-C₁₂)cycloalkylalkyl optionally substituted with an alkyl or alkyloxy group, aralkyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, I, OH, lower alkyl, O-(lower alkyl), O-benzyl, NH₂, NO₂, NH-acyl, CN and CF₃, and aralkyloxymethyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl);
or



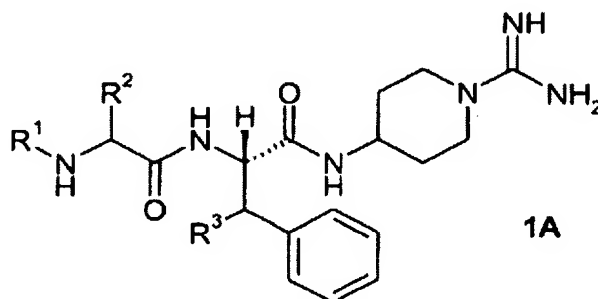
R^1 and R^2 together form an *o*-xylylene group having the formula , wherein the aromatic ring moiety of the *o*-xylylene group is optionally substituted with a group selected from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl);

R^3 is selected from H, OH and O-lower alkyl;

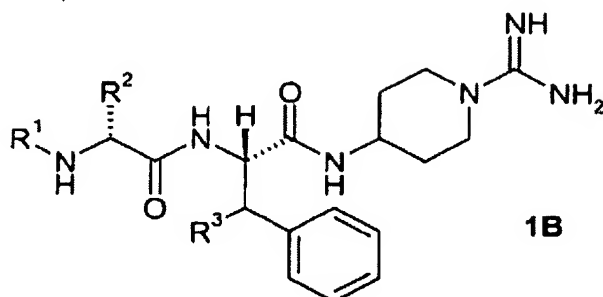
R^4 is selected from H, lower alkyl and phenyl; and

R^5 is selected from lower alkyl, phenyl and benzyl.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from H, lower alkyl, and $R^4-O_2CCH_2$.
3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is selected from (C_6-C_{10}) cycloalkylmethyl, benzyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl), phenethyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl) and benzyloxymethyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl).
4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is selected from cyclohexylmethyl, decahydronaphth-2-ylmethyl, benzyl, 4-fluorobenzyl, 4-chlorobenzyl, 4-hydroxybenzyl, 4-(lower alkyl)oxybenzyl, α -hydroxybenzyl, α -methoxybenzyl, phenethyl and benzyloxymethyl.
5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein the absolute stereochemistry is as depicted in general formula 1A.



6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein the absolute stereochemistry is as depicted in general formula 1B.



7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 selected from
- (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-amino-3''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
- (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-carboxymethylamino-3''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
- (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(3''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)-2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)-propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
- (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-amino-3''-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
- (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-carboxymethylamino-3''-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
- (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(3''-cyclohexyl-2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
- (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-amino-3''-phenylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
- (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-carboxymethylamino-3''-phenylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
- (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)-3''-phenylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
- (2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-amino-3''-decahydronaphth-2'''-ylpropanoylamino)-3'-

phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
(2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(2''-carboxymethylamino-3'''-decahydronaphth-2'''-yl)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
(2'S,2''R)-4-(2'-(3'''-decahydronaphth-2'''-yl-2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
(2'S,2''R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2''-amino-3'''-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-hydroxy- -3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
(2'S,2''R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2''-carboxymethylamino-3'''-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-hydroxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
(2'S,2''R,3'R)-4-(2'-(3'''-cyclohexyl-2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-hydroxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
(2'S,2''R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2''-amino-3'''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)-3'-methoxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
(2'S,2''R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2''-carboxymethylamino-3'''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)-3'-methoxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine; and
(2'S,2''R,3'R)-4-(2'-(3'''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)-2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-methoxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8-12. Canceled.